

III. REMARKS

▪ **Present Application**

An information disclosure statement was submitted on October 30, 2003 in the parent Application Serial Number 09/928242, but crossed paths in the mail with the Notice of Allowance mailed on October 20, 2003 and not received until a month later for which Claims 1-9, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22-27, 36 and 37 have been allowed and the issue fee has been paid in the application.

A preliminary amendment has been set forth above prior to examination of the continuation application for consideration of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement. The requisite copies of these references have previously been sent to the Examiner's attention as pertaining to the co-pending Parent Application as well as to the co-pending Continuation-In-Part Patent Application Serial Number 10/200,107 (filed 08/10/2001).

Claims 1-36 and 38-47 are now pending in this continuation application. In the preliminary amendment set forth above, Claim 37 has been canceled without prejudice and replaced by newly added claim 47. In addition, Claims 1, 18, 19, 31, 36, and 39 have been amended in agreement with the allowed claims of the Parent Application 09/928,242.

No new matter has been introduced with this amendment which is supported throughout the instant Specification, especially on pages 66, 73, and 74.

Applicant respectfully asserts that all of the pending claims are patentable.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It is firmly believed that pending claims are allowable even in view of the presently submitted prior art. Early notification of allowance is solicited.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees that may be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 in connection with the paper transmitted herewith, to Deposit Account No. 033-975.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hans Peter G. Hoffmann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Date: March 1, 2004

Hans-Peter G. Hoffmann, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 37,352
Agent for Applicant
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP
Financial Centre
695 East Main Street, 3-A,
Stamford, Connecticut 06901
(203) 965-8271